

# Conservation Planning for Puget Sound Killer Whales



June 5, 2004, Seattle Aquarium

U.S. Department of Commerce



**Northwest Regional Office**

NOAA Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service



# Agenda

- 12:00**     **Welcome, Bill Arntz, Director, Seattle Aquarium**
- 12:05**     **Opening Remarks and Introductions, Joe Scordino, NOAA Fisheries**
- 12:15**     **Current Events Update, Joe Scordino, NOAA Fisheries**
- 12:30**     **Government Updates**  
              **Department of Fisheries and Oceans: Recovery Planning under SARA**  
                  **Marilyn Joyce, DFO**  
              **Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: State listing and recovery planning**  
                  **Gary Wiles, WDFW**  
              **Northwest Fisheries Science Center: Killer whale research program**  
                  **Linda Jones, NWFSC**  
              **Northwest Region: Review of workshops and Conservation Plan status**  
                  **Lynne Barre, NOAA NWR**
- 1:45**     **Questions and Answers**



# Agenda (cont'd)

**2:00 Break**

**2:15 Killer whale conservation program information**  
**Kari Koski, The Whale Museum, Soundwatch**  
**Joe Olson, American Cetacean Society, Vashon**  
**Hydrophone Project**  
**Brent Plater, Center for Biological Diversity**  
**Susan Berta, OrcaNetwork, Whale Sighting Network**  
**Nadine Pinnell, BC Sighting Network**  
**Mark Plunkett, Seattle Aquarium, Orca Family Center**

**2:45 Next Steps, Joe Scordino, NOAA Fisheries**

**3:00 Agency representatives will be available for additional stakeholder input and questions**



# Current Events



# Building a Conservation Plan for Puget Sound Killer Whales



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# A Conservation Plan is:

- modeled on Recovery Plans required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). (MMPA Sec 115(b)(2))

## And must include:

- A description of site specific management actions necessary for recovery;
- Estimates of time and cost to carry out the recommended recovery measures; and
- Objective measurable criteria, which when met, would result in the conservation and restoration of the stock to its OSP.



# Conservation Plans

- A Conservation Plan is not a regulation on its own.
- The plan may recommend regulatory actions and/or provide guidance for voluntary initiatives.
- The Plan is a living document that can change in response to circumstances and new information.



# Conservation Planning Process

- Kick-off meeting- May 31, 2003
  - Provide overview of process
  - Input and sign-ups for workshops/e-mail list
- Workshops based on topics identified as potential risk factors in the decline of Southern Residents
  - Contaminants & Pollution- Oct. 24, 2003
  - Vessel Effects- March 19, 2004
  - Prey- April 22, 2004





# Workshop Format

## Morning

- Presentations by panel of experts
  - Provide information on what we know about the current condition
  - Diverse perspectives
  - Answer questions



# Workshop Format

## Mid-day

- Facilitated group discussion to identify specific areas for breakout groups
- Breakout group discussions
  - Identify management actions to improve the current condition
  - Identify current programs already in place



# Breakout Groups-Things to Consider

- No limit on areas to explore.
- Consider the current condition and what we know.
- Document questions or data gaps, but don't try to solve them.
- Develop ideas that foster community ownership of the outcome.



# Workshop Format

## Afternoon

- Report back to entire group
- Group discussion of strategy statements to explore feasibility, identify implementing agencies or identify short term projects to implement now.



# Workshop Results

- Information posted on our web page

[www.nwr.noaa.gov/mmammals/whales/CPPSKW.html](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/mmammals/whales/CPPSKW.html)

Agendas

Presentations

Management actions suggested by  
Breakout group members





# Conservation Planning for Puget Sound Killer Whales

On May 29, 2003, we published a notice in the *Federal Register* designating the Eastern North Pacific Southern Resident stock of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The notice also announced preparation of a Conservation Plan to restore the stock to its optimal sustainable population.

[Conservation Planning Updates](#) last updated June 2, 2004

## Developing a Conservation Plan

[Conservation Plan Qs & As](#) (PDF file 13kb) - Answers to questions about Conservation Plans, opportunities for public input, and how NOAA's Research and Management teams are working together.

May 31, 2003: [Introductory Meeting](#)

[Workplan](#)

Workshops

Oct. 24, 2003: [Contaminants](#)

Mar. 22, 2004: [Vessel Effects](#)

Apr. 19, 2004: [Prey](#)

Draft Conservation Plan (proposed for release December 2004)



# Coordination

- **Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada**
  - NOAA staff member of DFO Recovery Team
  - DFO participates in NOAA Conservation Planning Workshops
- **Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife**
  - WDFW staff working directly with NOAA on Conservation Plan
  - Consistency between NOAA Conservation Plan and Washington State Recovery Plan



# Coordination

- **Northwest Fishery Science Center**
  - Participation in Workshops
    - Provide research needs raised in management workshops to NWFSC
  - Elements of the Research Plan will be incorporated into Conservation Plan





# Drafting a Conservation Plan

- Draw on public comments received throughout the depleted designation and conservation planning processes
- Incorporate workshop results
- Coordinate with NWFSC/scientific community on latest research for a science-based document
- Coordinate with government agencies on management actions outside NOAA jurisdiction
- Provide opportunities for public review



# Conservation Planning Timeline

-Depleted Designation and Kickoff Meeting	May 31, 2003
-Process contracts for conservation efforts and planning	Summer/Fall 2003
-Contaminants and Pollution Workshop	October 24, 2003
-Vessel Effects Workshop	March 22, 2004
Prey Availability Workshop	April 19, 2004
-Update on Conservation Plan Progress Public meeting	June 5, 2004
-Process contracts for conservation efforts and planning	Summer/Fall 2004
-Draft Conservation Plan available	December 2004



# What else?

- In addition to conservation planning, NOAA responded to public requests for immediate action
  - Outreach/Public Awareness
    - Support for ***Soundwatch*** stewardship program
    - Develop killer whale education program at the Seattle Aquarium
    - Increase visibility of ***Be Whale Wise*** campaign-billboards and ad in WDFW fishing regulations
  - Enforcement
    - Additional hours of uniformed on-water enforcement presence (WDFW)



# Puget Sound Killer Whales Conservation Strategy



***WRAP-UP &  
NEXT STEPS***

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# Next Steps

- Agency representatives will stay to answer questions and receive input
- We'll continue to send out e-mails to let everyone know where we are & how we're doing
- Send new information to [orca.plan@noaa.gov](mailto:orca.plan@noaa.gov)
- Check our Web site for the latest information

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/mmammals/whales/index.html>

